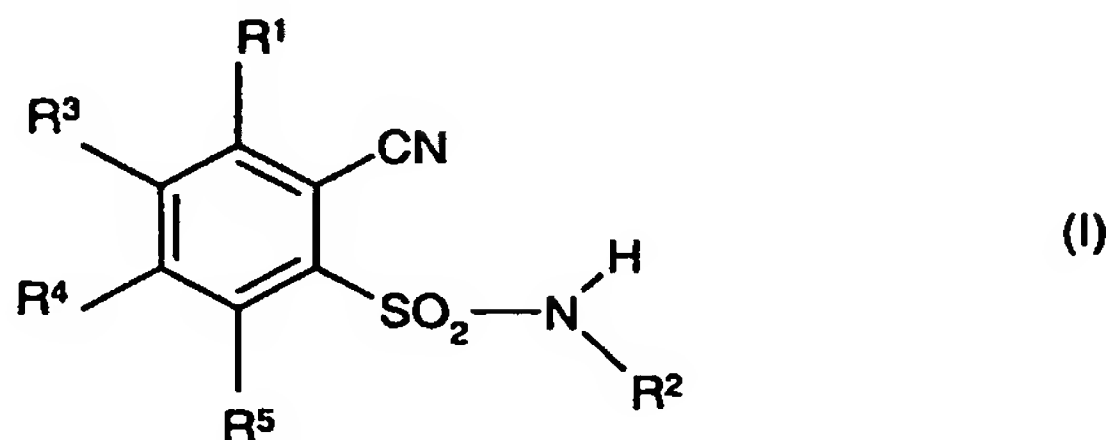


We claim:

1. A 2-cyanobenzenesulfonamide compound of the general formula I



where

R^1 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy;

R^2 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkinyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, wherein the five last-mentioned radicals may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one, two, or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfinyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, amino, $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)amino, di- $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)amino, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl and phenyl, it being possible for phenyl to be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or to carry one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy; and

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently of one another selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfinyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkinyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, amino, $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)amino, di- $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)amino, aminocarbonyl, $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)aminocarbonyl and di- $(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl)aminocarbonyl;

and/or the agriculturally useful salts thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein in formula I R^1 is C_1 - C_2 -alkyl or C_1 - C_2 -alkoxy.
3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein in formula I R^1 is methyl.
4. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein in formula I R^1 is methoxy.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein in formula I R^1 is C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy.
6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein in formula I R^1 is C_1 -haloalkoxy, in particular difluoromethoxy.
- 5 7. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein in formula I R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and C_2 - C_4 -alkinyl.
- 10 8. A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein R^2 is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, 1-methylethyl, or prop-2-yn-1-yl.
9. A compound as claimed in claim 1 where in formula I at least one of the radicals R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is different from hydrogen.
- 15 10. A compound as claimed in claim 9 where R^3 is halogen.
11. A compound as claimed in claim 1 where in formula I the radicals R^3 , R^4 or R^5 represent hydrogen.
- 20 12. An agricultural composition comprising such an amount of at least one compound of the general formula I and/or at least one agriculturally useful salt of I as defined in claim 1 and at least one inert liquid and/or solid agronomically acceptable carrier that it has a pesticidal action and, if desired, at least one surfactant.
- 25 13. A method of combating animal pests which comprises contacting the animal pests, their habit, breeding ground, food supply, plant, seed, soil, area, material or environment in which the animal pests are growing or may grow, or the materials, plants, seeds, soils, surfaces or spaces to be protected from animal attack or infestation with a pesticidally effective amount of at least one 2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide compound of the general formula I and/or at least one agriculturally acceptable salt thereof.
- 30 14. A method as defined in claim 13 where the animal pest is from the order Homoptera.
- 35 15. A method as defined in claim 13 where the animal pest is from the order Hymenoptera.
- 40 16. A method as defined in claim 13 where the animal pest is from the order Thysanoptera.
17. A method for protecting crops from attack or infestation by animal pests which comprises contacting a crop with a pesticidally effective amount of at least one

2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide compound of the general formula I and/or at least one salt thereof as defined in claim 1.